



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO: News Directors

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COUNCILMEMBER "WALKS THE TALK" IN FIGHT AGAINST ICE

HONOLULU September 12, 2003 CITY COUNCILMEMBER MIKE GABBARD IS calling upon the State Legislature to introduce legislation to amend the State Constitution to help in the fight against the "ice" epidemic and other drug trafficking in Hawaii.

Gabbard was joined by five of his Council colleagues in introducing Resolution 03-256 requesting that the State Legislature propose an amendment to the Hawaii State Constitution to allow the use of the "walk and talk" program to stop the smuggling of illegal drugs into Hawaii. The "walk and talk" program was one of the Honolulu Police Department's most effective drug interdiction programs until it was declared unconstitutional by the Hawaii Supreme Court in 1994. The program allowed law enforcement officials to question and search persons **ONLY WITH THEIR CONSENT** as they arrived at Honolulu International Airport and other points of entry. The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the use of "walk and talk" nationwide in order to combat the drug problem and the program is currently used in a number of states.

"This is a program proven to effectively cut the flood of drugs flowing into Hawaii," Gabbard said. "The people of Hawaii should have a voice in whether our overworked and underpaid law enforcement officers should have this tool to fight the bad guys. If we need a constitutional amendment to bring back this program, so be it. It wouldn't be the first time the people of Hawaii "overturned" a Supreme Court decision."

Copies of Resolution 03-256 are available at the City Clerk's office or by calling Gabbard's office at 547-7001.